

Lanka opposition complains of numerous polls violations

Troops surround hotel of Fonseka as he trashes results

AFP, AP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's opposition yesterday condemned the deployment of troops around their presidential candidate's hotel and complained of numerous election violations prior to Tuesday's vote.

As the returns came in, troops surrounded the Cinnamon Lake Hotel after about 400 people, including alleged army deserters, gathered inside with Fonseka, military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said.

were preventing him from leaving. Three of his employees were arrested and he feared detention himself, he said. "I ask you to order the police and the relevant security authorities to ensure my safety and my freedom of movement," he wrote.

Fonseka, who challenged incumbent Mahinda Rajapakse in Tuesday's vote, felt he was being held against his will because of troops surrounding his hotel in Colombo.



PHOTO: AFP

Sri Lankan soldiers stand outside the Cinnamon Lakeside hotel in Colombo yesterday where defeated presidential candidate Sarath Fonseka rejected the result of the election and vowed to challenge it in court.

HR Watch raps ME govts over rights record

AFP, Beirut

Middle Eastern governments are failing to improve their human rights records, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said on Tuesday at the release of its World Report 2010 in Beirut.

tion against women and minorities and the treatment of foreign workers. Women in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia continued to face legal discrimination, where they cannot pass citizenship on to their children, the report said.

Zardari sacrifices black goats to 'ward off evil eye'

INDO ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Islamabad

A black goat is slaughtered almost every day by Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari to ward off the 'evil eye' and protect him from the curse of 'black magic'.

Koreas trade fire Pyongyang vows no let up

AFP, Seoul

North and South Korea traded artillery fire near their disputed sea border yesterday and Pyongyang vowed to press on with live firing exercises, ratcheting up tensions anew between the Cold War foes.

border sparked an exchange of fire between the two militaries. South Korea condemned the North's artillery fire as "a gravely provocative act" and warned it would respond sternly to future provocations.

Invasion of Iraq illegal Says ex-govt lawyer of UK

AFP, London

The invasion of Iraq in 2003 was illegal, a former top British government lawyer told a public inquiry into the war Tuesday, three days before the appearance of ex-prime minister Tony Blair.

"In my opinion, that use of force had not been authorised by the Security Council, and had no other legal basis in international law." Wood said he told ministers of his concerns but was brushed aside, and in the end the government's top lawyer, attorney general Peter Goldsmith, gave the green light for military action.

side then US president George W Bush despite strong opposition. Blair partly justified the March 2003 invasion by citing Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's continued defiance of United Nations Security Council resolutions on weapons of mass destruction (WMD).



PHOTO: AFP

US Airborne soldiers provide medical assistance to man who was rescued from a collapsed building on Tuesday in downtown Port-au-Prince.

Bloodbath on Road 32

FROM PAGE 1

At the other end was the president himself. The clock was about to strike five. "Get the police control room," Bangabandhu ordered Mohitul. Mujib just got the message that his brother-in-law Abdur Rab Semiatat's house was under attack.

House help Rama was sleeping on the veranda in front of Bangabandhu's bedroom. It was around five in the morning. Suddenly the door opened and Begum Mujib emerged. "Criminals have attacked Semiatat's residence," she said.

giant. They asked some soldiers to keep watch on Mohitul and the police officer who also suffered a bullet wound in the leg. In heavy steps they hurried to the first floor where their main target lived.

Then Begum Mujib softly said, "If we will have to die, let's die together." And she opened the door and begged for the lives of her family members.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার. মাশরুম উন্নয়ন জোরদারকরণ প্রকল্প. জাতীয় মাশরুম উন্নয়ন ও সম্প্রসারণ কেন্দ্র. কৃষি অধিদপ্তর, সোবহানবাগ. সাজার, ঢাকা. "কৃষিই সমৃদ্ধি". তারিখ: ২৪/০১/২০১০খ.

India plans manned space flight in 2016

AFP, Bangalore

India will launch its first manned space mission in 2016 in a bid to match space pioneers such as Russia and the United States, a top official said yesterday.

India plans manned space flight in 2016. The government had already approved plans for a human space flight project by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), and last year gave the go-ahead for funding of around 2.8 billion dollars.

ISRO chairman K. Radhakrishnan said the agency would develop the space module for the programme within four years. "We are planning a human space flight in 2016, with two astronauts who will spend seven days in the Earth's lower orbit," Radhakrishnan told reporters at ISRO headquarters in Bangalore.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) PROMOTION OF DEVELOPMENT AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING IN THE CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS (CHT). The Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTDF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh, seeks proposals from interested and well qualified NGOs/Organizations in response to the following RFP in the CHT.